



Tapu'itea

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(Note: Historical Notes will return in next week's issue of Tapu'itea)

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

**Governor Togiola
Tulafono**

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Department of Health joins USDA in recall of possibly tainted canned meat

Employees from the local Department of Health have been out inspecting restaurants, wholesale outlets, and local stores in an effort to rid the territory of canned meat products being recalled by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

DOH medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau said that all the items listed in the recall should be disposed of or turned in to the DOH main office, for safety reasons.

He added that inspectors are still checking out different vendors and so far, he has not received any information stating that any of the listed items have been located in the territory.

"In cases like this, no news is good news," Tuliau said.

The canned goods are made by Georgia based Castleberry's Food Company owned by Bumble Bee Foods, LLC, who expanded its July 19 recall of canned meat products believed to contain Clostridium Botulinum, a bacteria that causes Botulism, a rare but serious paralytic illness caused by a nerve toxin.

According to the USDA web site, the recall is being expanded after information gathered by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and FSIS indicated that processing malfunctions at the establishment have existed longer than initially estimated. "For that reason, Castleberry's has agreed to recall all of the following products that may still be in commerce, regardless of the 'best buy' date stamped on the bottom of the can. Consumers who have any of these products or any foods made with these products should throw them away immediately. Double bag the cans in plastic bags that are tightly closed then place in a trash receptacle for non-recyclable trash outside of the home." The recall is serious enough to be classified as a Class I, meaning that this is a health hazard situation where there is reasonable probability that the use of the product will cause serious, adverse health consequences or death.

The USDA says that the canned meat products are distributed nationwide and the problem was discovered during an investigation into illnesses in Indiana and Texas.

Symptoms of Botulism, which usually occur from 18-36 hours after eating contaminated food, include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and muscle weakness. The illness can cause paralysis, respiratory failure, and death.

Anyone experiencing any these symptoms are urged to contact a physician for medical attention. Additional information on botulism can be found at www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism.htm while complete details about the recall can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov.

For additional information and a complete list of all the items included in this recall, contact the Department of Health at 633-4606.

DOH offers free summer camp for local youngsters

While some young people spent their summer vacation off island, in summer school, or just hanging out at home, close to 100 youngsters participated in the first ever Healthy Kids Summer Camp program hosted by the Department of Health at the Convention Center in Utulei.

The camp lasted three days, July 24-27, with each day dedicated to educating kids from the eastern, central, and western districts, respectively.

DOH medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau said that the summer program is not budgeted but the event was held as a way to educate young people about the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle. He added that they plan to offer the same program for the kids in Manu'a by next year.

During the camp, youngsters participated in sessions focused on proper dental hygiene, the importance of getting immunized, the negative effects of smoking, the benefits of exercising, and practicing healthy eating habits.

Tuliau said that the best way to promote wellness is to start at a young age. "We hope that the participants of the summer program will take with them what they learned and put it to practice, so they can live long healthy lives," he said.

The theme for this year's summer camp was "Living Healthy Starts With Me." In addition to informative sessions conducted by DOH personnel and representatives from the Department of Human and Social Services, camp participants had fun taking part in fun exercise activities, physical exams, and free screenings for hemoglobin and high blood pressure.

The event was a success, despite the absence of Maternal and Child Health Care program coordinator Jackie Tulafono who played a key role in making this year's event possible.

Camp participants were selected by church and youth leaders representing different religious denominations and villages from all across the territory.

Tuliau said that based on the response and the success of this year's event, it is highly likely that the summer camp will become an annual event.



DOH dentist Dr. Inoke Siasan stressed the importance of proper dental hygiene to the participants of the first ever Healthy Kids Summer Camp held at the Utulei Convention Center on July 24.



Pictured here is a DHSS employee (far right), taking notes while addressing several youngsters about the negative effects of smoking during the first ever DOH Healthy Kids Summer Camp held July 24-27 dental screening

DPW holds hearing to discuss \$16 mil TTIP money

Only three people attended the public hearing that took place on Monday, July 30 at the Public Works conference room to discuss the \$16 million awarded for 2006-2008 under the Territory Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP).

They are Itua Malosi representatives Taotasi Archie Soliai and Mary Lauagaia Taufete'e, and Levu Solaita.

The multi-year TTIP is a three-year project which includes transportation improvement projects for the territory, funded by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

TTIP details the funding and work phase of each project in the appropriate year.

DPW director Taeatui Punafo Tilei said that Monday's hearing was scheduled to fulfill a requirement set forth by the FHWA.

Others in attendance were DPW finance manager Adrienne Sewell, acting Civil Highway Division director Faalava'i Taase, and other Public Works engineers.

The hearing was short, and discussion focused on the funding, how it was going to be spent, and when the projects will begin.

Taeatui explained that most of the identified areas have already been surveyed by DPW employees and work will commence in due time.

He said that the \$16 million has already been divided by districts, in both Tutuila and Manu'a. *(Continued on page 3)*

DPW hearing on \$16 mil TTIP money *(continued from page 2)*

The process for the development of TTIP involves two phases, the first of which includes the compilation of an initial project listing that requires issuing a “call for projects” to prioritize the projects. The list is then evaluated against project selection requirements established by the department.

The second phase involves the identification of selected projects, which are then sorted by funding category to assure that the fiscal requirements are met and that use of federal funds will be optimized with no lapse.

The first phase was completed in May 12, 2006 and the second phase includes a list, already released and published in the local newspapers, depicting estimates for planning purposes as well as Emergency Relief (ER) projects.

A breakdown of the estimates is as follows:

<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
\$1.6 mil	\$3.2 mil	\$4 mil	\$4 mil	\$3.2 mil

Projects funded under the \$16 million include:

Highway Planning Weigh Station AS Highway Master Plan Update AS Drainage Master plan Technology Transfer and Technical Assistance Program Traffic Counting Station, various locations Completion of the Civil Highway Division Office, M&O Compound Aoa Village road Rte 01, Pava'ia'i Drainage 3R spot improvement project, island wide Route I, Phase II Rte I waterfront access loop road Route 104, (LBJ/Route I intersection to first culvert behind LBJ)	Route 014, (from airport intersection to Army Reserve) Route 017W (Lavalava Golf Course to Canco Hill) Route 116, (Ottoville to Pava'ia'i) Route 019, (Fagaima to Faleniu) Route 014 drainage (Ili'ili Airport Road) Route 018 drainage (Ottoville Road) Route 019 drainage (Fagaima Road) Intersection improvement Guardrail installation at hazardous sites, island wide Road pavement markings, island wide Traffic control, permanent, island wide Pedestrian Bridge Xing, island wide Sidewalk construction, island wide
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Others include Emergency Relief (ER) projects in different villages to repair damages caused by the May 2003 flooding and Tropical Cyclone Heta. The locations include Fagaalu, Pago Pago, Fagasa, Fagatogo Marketplace, Leloaloe, Atu'u, Aua to Afono, Onenoa, Poloa, Ta'u, Utulei, and the Fagasa to Fagatele Road.

Also included in the project listing are various shoreline protection and drainage mitigation projects, and repair work in each of the districts in Tutuila and Manu'a. Others include Emergency Relief (ER) projects in different villages to repair damages caused by the May 2003 flooding and Tropical Cyclone Heta. The locations include Fagaalu, Pago Pago, Fagasa, Fagatogo Marketplace, Leloaloe, Atu'u, Aua to Afono, Onenoa, Poloa, Ta'u, Utulei, and the Fagasa to Fagatele Road.

Also included in the project listing are various shoreline protection and drainage mitigation projects, and repair work in each of the districts in Tutuila and Manu'a.

Any of the products seen here should either be discarded or turned in to the Department of Health. The pictured items are some of many being recalled by the US Department of Agriculture as they are believed to contain Clostridium Botulinum, a bacteria that causes Botulism, a rare but serious paralytic illness caused by a nerve toxin.





Governor Togiola Tulafono (center) celebrates with ASCC music instructor Namulauulu Dr. Paul Pouesi (right) and Rev. Earl Enesi during the Tafesilafa'i Festival held earlier this month in Long Beach, CA.

(Courtesy Photo)

Governor and ASCC Staff Participate in LA Tafesilafa'i Festival

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Namulauulu Dr. Paul Pouesi, music instructor and chairman of the Fine Arts Department at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), reports that the 11th Annual Tafesilafa'i Pacific Islander Festival which took place August 1st through 4th in Long Beach, California attracted an estimated 1,500 people per day, and that Governor Togiola Talalelei Tulafono provided one of the festival's highlights with a rousing speech encouraging Samoans living on the mainland to gain US citizenship so they can take a more active role in politics.

In an email from California, Dr. Pouesi recalls, "Togiola gave a very powerful speech, saying he'd like to see more Samoans elected as mayors, representatives and governors in California. Basing his speech on this year's Tafesilafa'i theme of 'Tulituli Matagau le Ufi a Sina' (Searching for Success), Togiola explained the meaning of this Samoan phrase and related it to Samoans living here. He asked the audience, 'If Americans of Samoan ancestry such as Senator Edgar Malepeai of Idaho and mayor Elizabeth Langkilde-Kautz of Burnsville, Minnesota can get elected in areas of the country with such small Samoan populations, then why shouldn't more Samoans get elected in California, which has a bigger population of our people than American Samoa?' The Governor reminded Samoans in California that the success they achieve here reflects back on their families in Samoa."

Dr. Pouesi, along with Pa'u Faleatua of the College's Samoan Studies Institute, traveled to Long Beach to represent ASCC at this year's Tafesilafa'i Festival, and to conduct workshops on Samoan culture and music for various Samoan churches in California. Tafesilafa'i, Inc., a non-profit organization affiliated with the Second Samoan Congregational Church of Long Beach U.C.C., organizes the yearly event to celebrate the art and culture of the city's Samoan and Pacific Islander Communities. Dr. Pouesi relayed that some of the activities at this year's three-day event included a Sacred Music Competition, the Mr. & Ms Tafesilafa'i Pageant, a Tautalaga Competition (Oratorical Presentations), an Ava Ceremony, a Pese & Siva Competition, and the concluding Prize Giving and Shield Presentation.

Describing his and Faleatua's contributions to the Festival, Dr. Pouesi says, "I wrote a competition song for the youth, and Pa'u took a very active role as one of the judges for lauga, siva and pese competitions. He also came up with this year's festival theme." This marks the third year that ASCC representatives have participated in the Festival, and earlier this year Tafesilafa'i Inc., and the College signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizing the exchange of knowledge and cultural resources between the two entities. "ASCC provides Tafesilafa'i with instructional assistance in areas such as language, culture and music," says Samoan Studies Institute Director Okenaisa Fauolo-Manila. "In return, Tafesilafa'i hosts ASCC researchers and students when needed, and also helps ASCC out with promotion, awareness, and recruitment. The MOU falls under the Samoan Studies Institute focus of Community Outreach programs."

Following the Festival, Pouesi will continue giving workshops for several more weeks while Faleatua heads to Colorado to visit relatives. During his free time, Pouesi has also worked on music video recording and composition at the Hosanna Recording Studio in Riverside. An avid composer, arranger and pianist, Pouesi released his new CD, "Volume 3: Piano Instrumental" during the week of the Festival. The recording features his interpretations of island favorites like "I'll Remember You" and "Beyond the Reef," jazz standards such as "Misty" and "Girl from Ipanema," and an original composition titled "Piano Prelude in A-Minor".

For more information on Tafesilafa'i, Inc., visit their web page at: www.tafesilafai.org. The "Resources" section of the site includes a link to a thought-provoking report by Tafesilafa'i titled "Why Vote: A Samoan Perspective," which analyzes the social conditions and faced by Samoans living in California, as well as the nature of their involvement thus far with the state's political process.